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Senate panel wants bugged chancery in Moscow torn down

By Bill Gertz
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The Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday called on the Reagan administration to tear down the new U.S. Chancery building in Moscow because of Soviet listening devices in the building's frame.

Intelligence Committee Chairman David Boren, Oklahoma Democrat, and Vice Chairman William Cohen, Maine Republican, told reporters the new chancery building under construction in Moscow was penetrated with electronic listening devices and should be rebuilt.

Mr. Boren described U.S. officials

who oversaw the construction as "incredibly inept, naive and irresponsible." He said Soviet officials checked construction work in Washington for electronic bugs, but U.S. officials in Moscow failed to do so.

In a 17-page report released yesterday, the committee also recommended shorter tours of duty for U.S. Marine guards and curbing the use of foreign nationals employed by U.S. embassies abroad.

State Department officials have said \$23 million out of \$64 million available for the building was spent on the exterior and that reconstructing the top two or three floors to secure them against eavesdrop-

ping could cost another \$28 million.

Robert E. Lamb, the State Department's security chief, testified before Congress recently that the Soviets had wired transmitting devices into the building's superstructure, something U.S. officials did not foresee.

President Reagan announced earlier this month that the Soviets would not be allowed to occupy their new chancery at Mt. Alto until the new consulate building in Moscow had been secured against Soviet bugs.

Meanwhile, two other members of Congress charged yesterday that

agents already have begun using the new Soviet Embassy complex for electronic eavesdropping.

Rep. Richard Armey, Texas Republican, and Sen. Steve Symms, Idaho Republican, made the accusation at a press conference called to announce the introduction of legislation that would force the Soviets to shift the new embassy complex.

Mr. Armey told reporters, "We have evidence . . . from a variety of sources that [the Soviets] are already using the site to conduct espionage."

He vowed to "move the Russians off Mt. Alto," as the northwest Washington location is called, by forcing

the State Department to abrogate the 1969 and 1972 agreements with Moscow on the new compound.

The complex, which is partially completed and houses some Soviet diplomatic personnel, sits some 300 feet above sea-level. Its tallest building provides clear views of the White House, Pentagon and the Capitol.

Earlier this month, FBI Director William Webster, in hearings before the Senate Intelligence Committee, said the Soviets have been using the new complex to collect telephone and other electronic communications transmitted by government officials in the area. A

Mr. Symms, the main Senate sponsor of the amendment to the current State Department authorization bill, said the new U.S. Chancery building in Moscow "should be blown down and rebuilt with an American construction firm."

In other developments, Marine Commandant Gen. Paul X. Kelly yesterday called the embassy guard scandal "a sudden shock." He said "during the four years that I've been commandant, I have talked with numerous ambassadors who have sought me out . . . and I have never heard from any ambassador or any security officer any indication that we had any problems within our Marine security guards."